GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3616
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2005
CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
Virendra Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a tremendous rise in the incidents of corruption, bungling and scams in Public Distribution System during the recent months;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the system ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) & (b): No Sir. The Targetted Public Distribution System(TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments wherein the Central Government is responsible for procurement of foodgrains, storage and their transportation upto the Principal Distribution Centres of FCI and the State Governments are responsible for identification of beneficiaries, issue them ration cards and distribute foodgrains through a vast net work of 4.77 lakh Fair Price Shops scattered all over the country. In such a vast net-work chances of irregularities can not be ruled out. However whenever a complaint is received by the Central Government it is forwarded to the concerned State Government for investigations and necessary remedial action.

(c): The reform of the Public Distribution System to improve its efficiency, accountability and effectiveness is an ongoing process. Besides notification of the Public Distribution System(Control) Order, 2001, involvement of the Panchayati Raj Institutions, model citizen`s charter and deputation of task force teams to check irregularities and to inspect and monitor the TPDS and the Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Conferences of State Food Secretaries, State Food Ministers and a meeting with all the Members of Parliament was organized recently to discuss issues relating to strengthening of TPDS.